

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee

Thank you for allowing me to voice an opinion on such an important matter. I am a senior citizen living in Prospect Ct and I do not really feel safe in my own hometown. It seems that when the police send out instructions that a citizen needs to lock up their home, cars and be extra vigilant, that somehow the system has gone astray. I am used to some violence having spent much of my life in NYC where crime was rampant and working overseas in a situation where terrorist bombings would occur. I am used to accepting a certain amount of responsibility for my own safety, yet here in CT, safe is not what I feel.

The fears do not arise because there are over 300,000 citizens who hold a permit to possess a firearm, but rather because there are criminals who have contempt for the laws and disregard them. Car thefts and assaults with a non-firearm are increasing, and the state acts as if that is okay – and make attempts to coddle the criminal.

Much of what is in SB 16 which I strongly oppose, attacks the rights of those who are complying with the laws, dealing with complex and often incorrect definitions and assumptions about firearms, and are not the problem.

I wish that you had indicated a willingness to impose a mandatory sentence to be served consecutively to those prohibited persons who are found to be in possession of a firearm and used in a crime. Rather, you tend to ignore the possession charges and blame the tool.

I oppose SB 5416 which limit the purchase of a firearm to basically 12 a year. It is a clear infringement of my right to bear arms and neither the Constitution of the United States nor Connecticut indicate any quantitative limits. Furthermore, the bill would make it illegal to transfer collections to a family member at death. Most egregious, is the contention that 30 days is a brief time.

The state, through remarks by Governor Lamont and others, seem to be on a path to deny law abiding citizens of their rights. The idea that there are too many “legal guns” is absurd, as is the denial of Heller which affirms the right to bear arms outside of the home. Driving a car is a privilege – owning a firearm by a non – prohibited person is a right. Please do not confuse the two.

I do support SB 388 , 5415 and 5412 which seem to constructively recognize our rights.

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